



BIRMINGHAM FIRST
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
...gathered here for good!™

PRELUDE *Here's One* traditional spiritual
(*Talk About a Child That Do Love Jesus*) arr. Evelyn Larter

***HYMN #127** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Casey Proch

Leader: We are a people on the move. Not because we're restless,
but because God's promise is always out ahead of us,
beckoning.

**People: From Abraham's first step into the unknown, to Joseph's
last breath reaching toward home, the journey has never
stopped.**

Leader: Sometimes the road stretches longer than we imagined.
Sometimes we wonder if we'll ever arrive.

**People: But faith is not about arriving. It is the holy stubbornness
that says, "There is more ahead."**

Leader: So, we gather as travelers, to remember where we've been,
to trust what lies ahead.

**All: Let us worship the God who walks with us, whose promise
has never once failed.**

***RESPONSE #2130** *The Summons* -- vs. 1

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT Samaritas New Americans Rachel Campbell
and Katy Niglas

ANTHEM (9:30) *To Do Justly* Hank Beebe
IXOYC Choir

To do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with my God: these
words of wisdom sustain my spirit as the bedrock supports the sod.
May they guide me when I'm soaring; may I hear them when I plod:
to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with my God.

The Lord has shown me what he requires of me and what is good.
But can I live his word the way I should? And yet I know somehow
that with the power of his healing love, I could.

To do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with my God: these
words of wisdom sustain my spirit as the bedrock supports the sod.
May they guide me when I'm soaring; May I hear them when I plod:
to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with my God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Hallelujah* Rosephanye Powell
 Chancel Choir

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord above, He will deliver me.
Hallelujah! Faithful God of love; His glory I will see.
Rest in the Lord, O my soul. Trust in God.
Fear not; He's always near. Stand on the Word of the Father.
Pray in the spirit; believing God always hears.

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord of love, for He will provide for me.
Hallelujah! Almighty God above; His glory I will see.
Rest in the Lord, O my soul. Trust in God.
Fear not; He's always near. Stand on the Word of the Father.
Pray in the spirit; believing God always hears.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! God will deliver me.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! His glory I will see.
God is my refuge, strong mighty tower. He is my deliverer.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

*DOXOLOGY #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #100 *God, Whose Love is Reigning o'er Us*

SCRIPTURE Genesis 50:22-26, Exodus 13:19-22,
 Joshua 24:32, and Hebrews 11:1-22

MESSAGE *Don't Bury Me Here* Rev. Dr. Jack Harnish

*HYMN #701 *When We All Get to Heaven*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Lift Every Voice* James Weldon Johnson



*Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Daniel H. Dahl, Sr. by his wife, Mary Dahl and his children,
Nancy Feiten, Dan, and Stephen.*

*The Mission Candle is lit to the glory of God in honor of our
Liberia missionaries, asking God's protection, guidance, and peace
as they serve and return home safely.*



FOR OUR COMMUNITY

About Today's Music

February is Black History Month, and today the Chancel Choir sings an anthem by Rosephanye Powell. Dr. Powell holds international acclaim for her arrangements of traditional spirituals and gospel music. She is in great demand as a composer and clinician; and we have been fortunate to have included her as one of our Composer Festival guests. We celebrate her contribution to our wealth of great choral music.

Today is Hunger Sunday

Contribute your loose change during the offering, or use an offering envelope to designate the "Hunger" line for checks and bills. You can also give online at www.gatheredhereforgood.org/waystogive or mail a check to the church with "Hunger" noted. Your gift supports our Hunger Ministry, helping local agencies provide vital hunger relief in our community.

Today in Fellowship Hall

- ✧ Visit the Home Foods Table for delicious homemade goodies provided by the Chancel Choir. Donations support the Hunger Ministry, which funds local agencies providing hunger relief in our community.
- ✧ At the Fair Trade Equal Exchange Sale, hot chocolate is back in stock - along with a large selection of chocolate bars - just in time for thoughtful Valentine's Day gifts for family and friends.
- ✧ If you ordered a Super Bowl Sub last week, please pick it up today. A limited number of subs are also available for purchase while supplies last, with proceeds supporting the Youth Choir's upcoming trip to England. Subs are \$10 and include chips.
- ✧ Get your Empty Bowls ticket today for the soup and cereal supper on Wednesday, February 18, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. This community meal benefits local food pantries and soup kitchens.
- ✧ Stop by the Circuit Rider Bookstore to find meaningful books that make wonderful additions to Easter baskets. For children, *Snuggle Time Easter Stories* offers gentle rhymes that introduce our youngest readers to the true meaning of Easter.

Sunday Night Dinner

The Sunday Night Dinner will be paused for the next two weeks due to tonight's Super Bowl and next week's Winter Break. We will resume on Sunday, February 22.

Discover First

Looking for a church home? Join us today at 12:15 p.m. in Wright Parlor to learn more about Birmingham & Berkley First and the United Methodist Church. At the end of the session, you'll have the opportunity to become a member. For any questions, please contact Mary Feldmaier at mfeldmaier@fumcbirmingham.org.

Ash Wednesday Services

We invite you to gather as we begin the season of Lent together through worship, prayer, and reflection on February 18 at 7:40 a.m. (in-person), 10:00 a.m. (in-person and online), 4:30 p.m. (in-person and online), and 6:30 p.m. (in-person). For those on the go, drive-thru ashes and prayer will be available from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the East entrance off Maple Road.

Ash Wednesday offers a meaningful moment to slow down, reflect, and acknowledge our deep reliance on God's grace. Marking the beginning of Lent—the 40 days that lead us toward Easter—this holy season calls us into practices of prayer, repentance, and spiritual renewal. Through worship, devotion, service, prayer and fasting, we seek to grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

Lenten Concert

You're invited on Saturday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of inspiring music with Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar. Known for their powerful harmonies and soul-stirring gospel sound, this nationally and internationally acclaimed ensemble brings a concert experience filled with joy, artistry, and spirit.

Call for Art – Lenten Dinner Exhibit

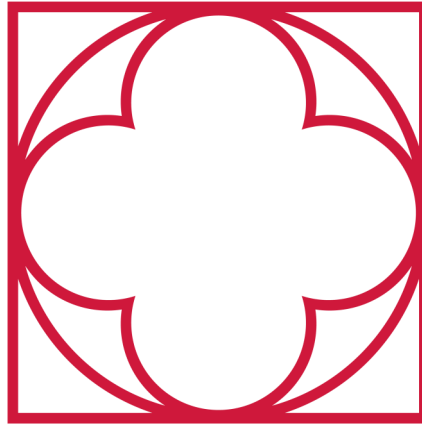
As part of our Lenten Dinner and Program on Sunday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center, we invite Birmingham & Berkley First members to share their creative gifts in a special art exhibit. Artwork in all mediums is welcome, and artists are encouraged to submit pieces that reflect their own creative expression. This exhibit celebrates the many ways creativity is lived and shared within our faith community. If you are interested in submitting a piece for the exhibit, please contact Adrienne Trupiano at atrupiano@fumcbirmingham.org.

Stewardship Campaign Update

Thanks to your extraordinary generosity throughout this year's stewardship campaign, we celebrate \$2.15 million in pledges for our operating budget and \$180,000 for Home Fires. Your commitment, combined with estimated unpledged income, has allowed us to set 2026 budgets equal to or slightly higher than last year. Because of you, we are strengthened and inspired to continue the work God has called us to do. Thank you for your prayers, your support, and your unwavering dedication to the ministry we share together

BULLETIN COVER

This tracery symbol represents one of the eight acts of mercy - an angel with the coffin and pick for the merciful act of burying the dead (located in the Parable and Miracle Window on the center East Sanctuary Wall, center right Tracery Panel)



Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue Jr., Senior Pastor

Rev. Sarah B. Alexander, Associate Pastor

Rev. Rachael M. Dunlap, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish,
Pastor Emeritus, Interim Associate Pastor

Casey Proch, Executive Director
Worship, Music & Operations

Doris Hall, Organist

Rev. Gary Haller, Bishop Laurie Haller,
& Rev. Dr. William A. Ritter,
Pastors Emeriti



For more information about Birmingham First, or to make an online donation, please visit our website at www.gatheredhereforgood.org, or scan the QR code with your cell phone's camera.

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